

## STALLION LEGISLATION AND THE HORSE-BREEDING INDUSTRY.

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**P**ROGRESS in horse breeding has not kept pace with the progress made in many other agricultural lines. One of the principal causes of this condition has been the too general use of stallions lacking in quality and breeding and the failure on the part of owners of mares to appreciate fully the value of the sound, pure-bred sire of desirable conformation. The most successful horse breeders use such sires only, and they also give particular attention to the selection of mares, as unsound mares of poor conformation and breeding, as well as inferior stallions, are a hindrance to progress in horse breeding.

It is a deplorable fact that hundreds of farmers and mare owners have patronized the inferior stallion. They have failed to appreciate that a higher fee paid for the service of the sound, pure-bred stallion will be more than offset by the higher price received when the resulting colt is sold. Nor have they considered the fact that it costs as much to raise a mongrel as it does a high-grade or pure-bred.

Many States have aided the farmers by enacting legislation regulating the public service of stallions and jacks, with the prospect that there will be an ultimate improvement in the horses in the entire country. Farmers and mare owners can benefit themselves and add greatly to the efficiency of these laws by insisting on breeding their mares only to such stallions as will improve, rather than degrade, their stock.

### REQUIREMENTS OF STALLION LEGISLATION.

In the State of Wisconsin a law regulating the public service of stallions and jacks became effective on January 1, 1906. Since that time 20 additional States have enacted

legislation of a similar character. These States are: California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, and Washington.

Wisconsin and a number of other States have amended their original laws, the object being to make them more effective and to give clearer classifications regarding licenses. Under the provisions of these laws certain standards and conditions must be met before a stallion or jack is permitted to stand for public service. These conditions vary somewhat. In some States certain diseases and unsoundnesses disqualify a stallion or jack for public service; in others, the stallion or jack is permitted to stand, but any unsoundness must be mentioned on the license certificate as well as on all posters, circulars, etc., used by the owner for advertising purposes.

The laws in most of the States require every stallion or jack claimed by the owner to be purebred to be registered in a studbook published by a society recognized by the State as authentic and reliable. Before a license is issued the certificate of registration and pedigree issued by one of these recognized societies, with an application for license and an affidavit certifying to the condition as regards soundness, must be presented to the State board or commission. All stallions and jacks for which such a certificate of registration from one of the recognized societies can not be produced are, if other conditions have been met, licensed as grade, crossbred, nonstandard-bred, mongrel, etc., and sound or unsound, according to the provisions of the law in the particular State.

Detailed information regarding these laws may be secured by addressing the officials in charge, whose names and addresses appear at the end of this article.

The figures shown in the several tables were compiled from reports furnished by the secretaries of the various stallion registration boards. These reports are not issued all at the same time of year, and the information given is taken from the last reports received.

Number of stallions, by breeds and classes, in 18 States.

State.	Date.	Stallions.																	Jacks.			Total stallions and jacks.				
		Pure-bred stallions.																	Registered jacks.	Unregistered jacks.	Total jacks.					
		Belgian draft.	Clydesdale.	French draft.	Percheron.	Shire.	Suffolk.	Arabian.	Cleveland Bay.	French Coach.	German Coach.	Hackney.	Morgan.	Saddle.	Standard-bred.	Thoroughbred.	Shetland pony.	Welsh pony.					Total pure-bred stallions.	Grade stallions.	Crossbred stallions.	Mongrel stallions.
California.....	July 31, 1915	104	18	35	336	50	3	7	27	3	9	109	11	712	272	2	350	1,336	114	181	295	1,631				
Idaho.....	Nov. 15, 1915	50	11	18	204	53	2	2	4	2	2	27	1	357	432	.....	789	4	50	54	843					
Illinois.....	July 1, 1915	397	173	267	2,855	454	10	7	31	111	37	65	50	974	9	55	5	5,503	3,185	2	8,690	8,690				
Indiana.....	Dec. 31, 1915	611	75	105	1,272	101	1	1	48	9	11	9	444	19	2,707	1,276	5	976	4,964	628	536	1,164	6,128			
Iowa.....	do.....	944	332	516	3,185	523	9	2	18	54	18	55	28	624	6	53	.....	6,367	2,686	.....	9,053	233	589	822	9,875	
Kansas.....	Oct. 1, 1915	201	38	294	2,038	88	2	6	18	37	9	25	34	416	8	10	.....	3,224	1,360	1,151	5,735	.....	.....	5,735		
Michigan.....	Sept. 1, 1915	196	69	36	664	46	2	1	12	7	8	172	.....	1,213	398	.....	275	1,886	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,886		
Minnesota.....	Apr. 15, 1916	326	93	126	1,244	52	4	11	21	5	23	2	142	4	2,053	1,898	.....	3,951	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,951		
Montana.....	Dec. 31, 1915	75	24	51	488	61	.....	8	6	4	8	39	3	767	423	.....	1,190	9	2	11	1,201					
Nebraska.....	July 1, 1914	339	82	270	1,586	273	12	6	31	4	4	6	233	5	2,852	2,213	.....	5,065	96	1,061	1,157	6,222				
New Jersey.....	1915	2	8	.....	21	.....	1	.....	3	3	.....	31	14	84	79	1	.....	164	2	6	8	172				
North Dakota..	Dec. 31, 1915	207	117	84	1,037	161	2	.....	14	3	3	.....	84	.....	1,602	608	.....	757	2,967	14	58	72	3,039			
Oregon.....	Nov. 1, 1915	92	52	21	312	55	6	2	3	31	2	10	4	72	5	3	.....	670	284	2	232	1,188	24	100	124	1,312
Pennsylvania..	Dec. 31, 1915	124	20	31	518	30	.....	1	8	33	22	10	10	211	14	5	.....	1,037	1,153	.....	2,190	6	62	68	2,258	
South Dakota..	July 1, 1915	187	59	97	752	54	3	1	8	1	7	2	43	2	1	.....	1,217	300	.....	461	1,978	13	64	77	2,055	
Utah.....	1915	31	14	9	104	23	3	4	2	.....	.....	3	17	9	.....	219	63	.....	282	7	.....	7	289			
Washington....	July 1, 1914	100	13	31	318	94	3	6	16	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	584	534	.....	1,118	18	83	101	1,219				
Wisconsin.....	July 1, 1915	166	74	64	1,052	46	1	17	19	6	22	2	276	5	1,755	902	5	345	3,007	16	19	35	3,042			
Total.....	.....	4,152	1,272	2,055	17,986	2,164	61	7	19	142	477	134	249	167	3,914	87	158	6,32,923	18,066	17	4,547	55,553	1,184	2,811	3,995	59,548



bred and mongrel. Colorado reports only the total number of licenses issued, which was 1,430, jacks being included. Allowing a reasonable estimate for the number of jacks in this State, 56,000 stallions, in round numbers, are licensed for public service in all of these States, not including Oklahoma and New York. The distribution of the 55,553 stallions is given in the annexed table, with the percentage each class bears to the total number of stallions licensed.

*Distribution of classes of stallions by States.*

State.	Pure-bred.		Grade.		Crossbred and mongrel.		Total stallions.
	Number.	Per cent of total.	Number.	Per cent of total.	Number.	Per cent of total.	
California.....	712	53	272	21	352	26	1,336
Idaho.....	357	45	432	55	.....	.....	789
Illinois.....	5,503	63	3,185	37	2	.....	8,690
Indiana.....	2,707	54	1,276	26	981	20	4,964
Iowa.....	6,367	70	2,386	30	.....	.....	9,053
Kansas.....	3,224	56	1,360	24	1,151	20	5,735
Michigan.....	1,213	64	398	21	275	15	1,886
Minnesota.....	2,053	52	1,898	48	.....	.....	3,951
Montana.....	767	64	423	36	.....	.....	1,190
Nebraska.....	2,852	56	2,213	44	.....	.....	5,065
New Jersey.....	84	51	79	49	1	.....	164
North Dakota.....	1,602	54	608	20	757	26	2,967
Oregon.....	670	56	284	24	234	20	1,188
Pennsylvania.....	1,037	47	1,153	53	.....	.....	2,190
South Dakota.....	1,217	62	300	15	461	23	1,978
Utah.....	219	78	63	22	.....	.....	282
Washington.....	584	52	534	48	.....	.....	1,118
Wisconsin.....	1,755	58	902	30	350	12	3,007
Total.....	32,923	59	18,066	33	4,564	8	55,553

**ELIMINATION OF THE INFERIOR STALLION.**

As has been indicated, prior to the enactment of these laws, stallions with every kind of breeding and affected with various diseases and unsoundnesses were standing for public service. The result was the production of a class of horses for which there was no demand.

It is well known that stallions of impure breeding lack the prepotency of the pure-bred and fail to stamp their offspring with breed characteristics and often even individual merit.

While it happens frequently that the size of the service fee, instead of the quality of the stallion, is the governing factor in deciding to what stallion a mare shall be bred, a lack of consideration, or knowledge, in the matters of soundness, breeding, and registration has been the cause for much of the patronage secured by the inferior stallion. Again, through misrepresentation on the part of some stallion owners many farmers have been deceived as to the true condition and breeding of a stallion. It is an almost invariable principle that like begets like, and breeders should not countenance the use of, nor support, sires lacking in those essentials necessary for the production of high-class horses.

It is not to be expected, however, that the unsound, inferior stallion will be eliminated quickly from breeding operations in this country. While it is generally agreed that their use should be stopped, the process of elimination must necessarily be gradual. There is, however, sufficient evidence that the demand for sound, pure-bred, registered sires is becoming more active. Among reasons for this may be mentioned the enactment of stallion legislation, which has caused all public service stallions to stand under their true colors as to breeding and soundness; the opportunity these laws give the farmer and mare owner to know exactly what a stallion is before either purchasing or breeding his mares; the publication of bulletins by the State agricultural colleges and experiment stations dealing with the problems of breeding, selection of sires, etc., and the assistance given by the officials in charge of the enforcement of the stallion license laws. Some of these State boards conduct bureaus of information, through which breeders may learn where desirable stallions of the various breeds may be safely purchased.

#### THE EFFECT OF STALLION LEGISLATION.

Perhaps the first and most important result of these laws is that they have made it possible for every farmer and mare owner to know exactly what a stallion is before breeding his mares, because stallion owners are compelled to represent their animals for just what they are.

They afford protection against false pedigrees and altered or forged certificates of registration, and benefit the owners of sound, pure-bred sires because they discourage the use of unsound, grade, and mongrel stallions.

The State authorities have found that hundreds of stallions that had been sold at high prices were either recorded in some unrecognized association or had been sold on altered certificates issued originally by reputable societies, the animals for which they had been issued having either died or been castrated, and thus there was created a practice of substitution that reached extensive proportions. These stallion laws now prevent a continuance of this practice when they are properly enforced.

The reports from the various State boards show that greater interest is being taken by farmers and mare owners in raising the standard of horses in their communities. A few instances will serve to show the beneficial effect resulting from this legislation.

In Idaho it has been found that many stallions brought into the State have been rejected and then shipped out to be sold elsewhere, that dealers are becoming more careful in their selection of stallions to be disposed of, and large numbers of breeders are buying pure-bred mares.

The report of the Illinois Stallion Registration Board for 1915 states that since the previous report 70 licensed stallions have been castrated and 146 sold to other States.

In Indiana the first year the law was in force 180 cases were found where certificates had been issued by societies not recognized by the law. Fortunately, however, in a number of instances the animals were found eligible to registration in recognized societies and pure-bred licenses eventually granted.

In 1909, prior to the enactment of the law, in the State of Kansas, over 2,000 grade and scrub stallions were advertised as pure-bred, while in 1915 not one such animal was so advertised.

In North Dakota the number of pure-bred stallions licensed has increased almost 50 per cent during the last 5 years, regardless of the fact that in the same period 242 stallions of pure breeding were refused licenses on account of unsoundness.

During the year 1915 in the State of Pennsylvania licenses were issued to 2,190 stallions, of which only 53 were reported as unsound.

In Wisconsin it is stated that horses are gradually improving in breeding, soundness, and quality. In 1906 the percent-

age of grade and scrub stallions licensed represented 60 per cent and the pure-breds 40 per cent, while in 1915 the grades and scrubs represented 42 per cent and the pure-breds had increased to 58 per cent.

A comparison with the year 1907, however, shows that from that time until 1915 the grades and scrubs have decreased from 65 per cent to 42 per cent, while the pure-breds have increased from 35 per cent to 58 per cent. These latter figures are considered more accurate in showing the results of the law, for the reason that all owners did not enroll their horses the first year.

*Per cent of stallions in the several classes at dates of earliest and latest reports.*

State and date.	Per cent pure-bred.	Per cent grade.	Per cent cross-bred and mon-grel.	State and date.	Per cent pure-bred.	Per cent grade.	Per cent cross-bred and mon-grel.
California:				New Jersey:			
July 30, 1912.....	42	18	40	Nov. 1, 1909.....	47	53	.....
July 31, 1915.....	53	21	26	1915.....	51	49	.....
Idaho:				North Dakota:			
Dec. 1, 1910.....	40	60	.....	Dec. 31, 1910.....	43	57	.....
Nov. 15, 1915.....	45	55	.....	1915.....	54	20	26
Illinois:				Oregon:			
Oct. 1, 1910.....	55	45	.....	May 20, 1912.....	58	25	17
July 1, 1915.....	63	37	.....	Nov. 1, 1915.....	56	24	20
Indiana:				Pennsylvania:			
1914.....	53	27	20	1908.....	33	67	.....
1915.....	54	26	20	Dec. 31, 1915.....	47	53	.....
Iowa:				South Dakota:			
Jan. 1, 1913.....	70	30	.....	Sept. 1, 1910.....	52	16	32
1915.....	70	30	.....	July 1, 1915.....	62	15	23
Kansas:				Utah:			
Oct. 1, 1910.....	41	59	.....	June 30, 1909.....	73	27	.....
1915.....	56	24	20	1915.....	78	22	.....
Minnesota:				Washington:			
Apr. 1, 1908.....	39	61	.....	July 1, 1912.....	58	42	.....
Apr. 15, 1916.....	52	48	.....	1914.....	52	48	.....
Montana:				Wisconsin:			
Nov. 1, 1910.....	61	39	.....	Nov. 1, 1906.....	40	60	.....
Dec. 31, 1915.....	64	36	.....	July 1, 1915.....	58	30	12
Nebraska:							
July 1, 1912.....	49	51	.....				
1914.....	56	44	.....				

The figures given in the table above show the percentage of increase or decrease in pure-breds and grades and mon-



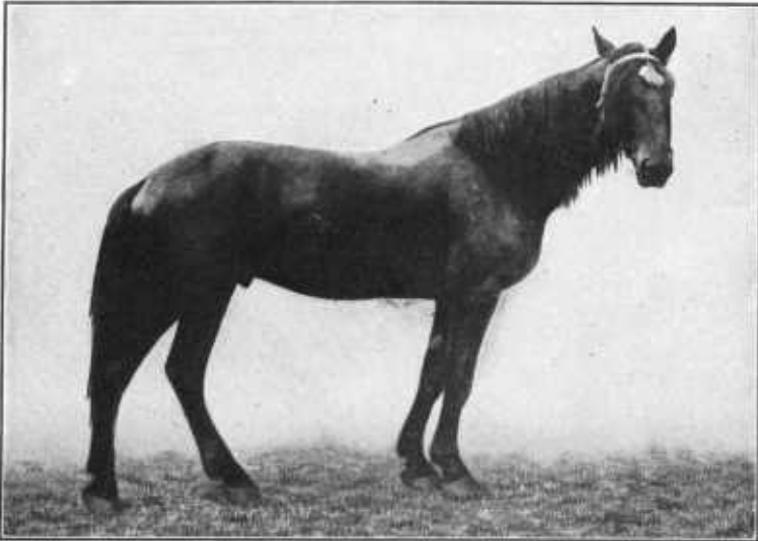
**FIG. 1.—AN UNSOUND MONGREL STALLION.**

One patronized because of the cheap service fee. Now retired from service.

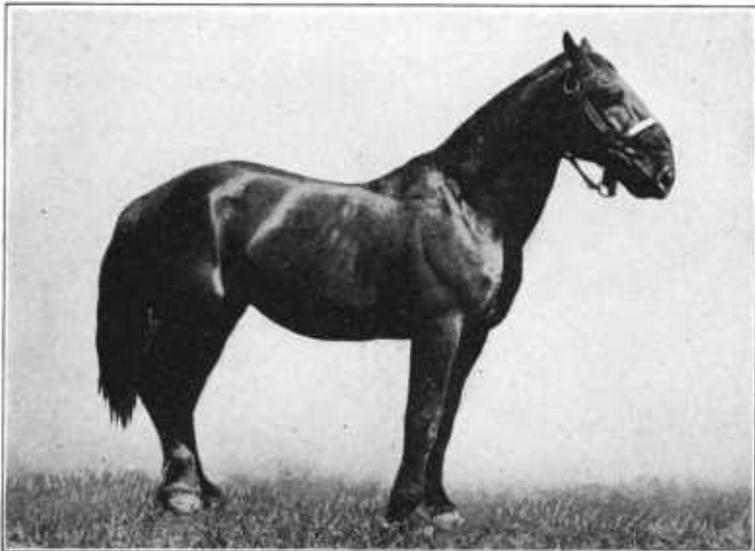


**FIG. 2.—A GRADE TROTTING-BREED STALLION UNFIT FOR BREEDING PURPOSES.**

Courtesy of Wisconsin Experiment Station.

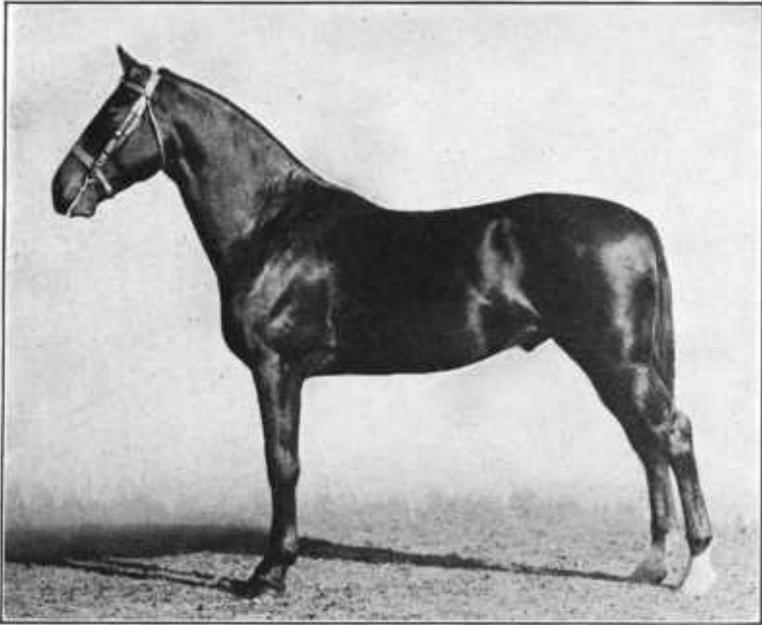


**FIG. 1.—ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION OF AN UNSOUND GRADE STALLION.**  
Lack of patronage finally caused him to be retired from service. Courtesy of Wisconsin Experiment Station.



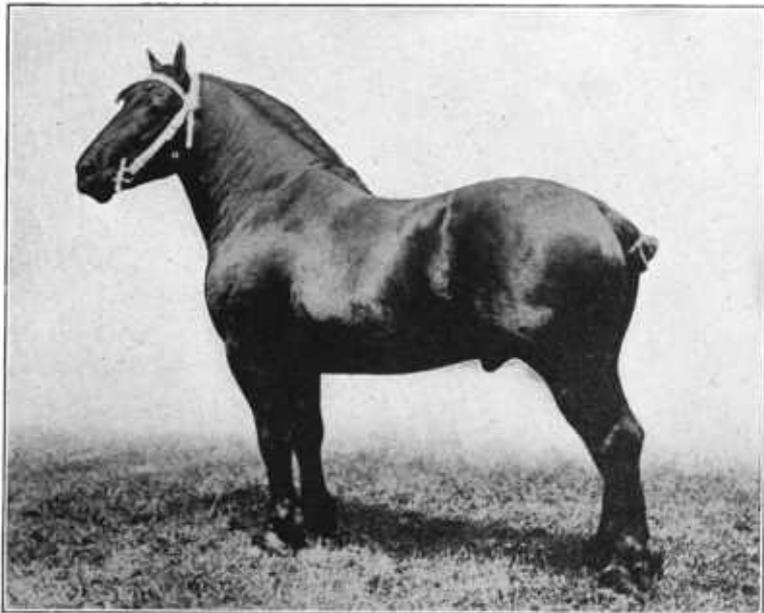
**FIG. 2.—A GRADE PERCHERON STALLION THAT SERVED 80 MARES IN ONE SEASON.**

His colts were raised at practically the same cost as pure-bred colts could have been reared. Courtesy of Wisconsin Experiment Station.

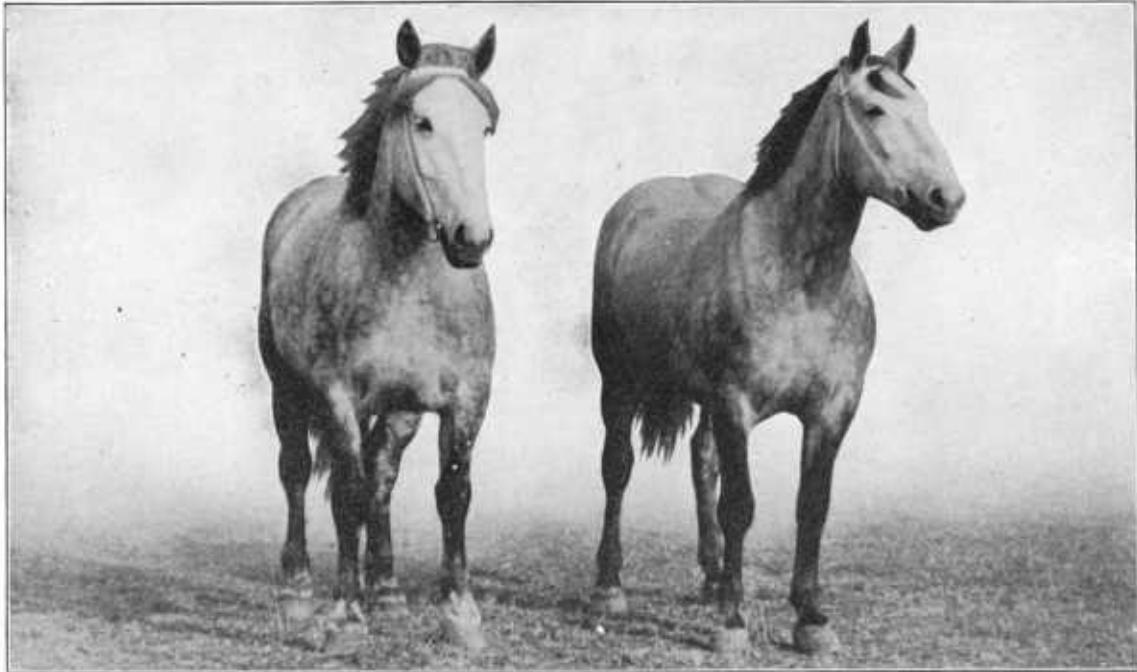


**FIG. 1.—GOOD TYPE OF TROTting-BRED STALLION.**

A sound horse and a safe sire for farmers desiring to breed horses of general purpose type.



**FIG. 2.—CHARACTER, SOUNDNESS, AND GOOD CONFORMATION.**



Yearbook U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, 1915.

PLATE LXVII.

KEEP ONLY THE BEST MARES AND BREED THEM TO SOUND, PURE-BRED STALLIONS OF THE SAME BREED.

grels, the first report received from each State being compared with the last report received, with the exception of Iowa. The original law in this State became effective March 30, 1907, but as owners of grade stallions were not required to secure certificates of soundness until 1912 the figures for the latter year have been used for the purpose of comparison. In 1908 there were 4,491 pure-bred licenses issued. Therefore, the increase in the number of pure-breds in 1915 over 1908 is 42 per cent. In connection with this table it is explained that in some States the original laws did not provide for mongrel licenses, while the amended laws include this classification. It is proper, therefore, to assume that many stallions were licensed as grades under the original acts, although in reality nothing more than scrubs. Thus the percentage of grades and mongrels licensed in those States, as shown by the last reports, should be added together in order that a proper comparison may be made with the first reports, which did not call for mongrel licenses.

In Oregon, in 1915, while the figures show a slight decrease in the percentage of pure-breds and an increase in the percentage of grades and mongrels, the report shows 54 more pure-bred licenses issued than in 1914, and 22 less mongrels, there being a change of but one in the number of grades. This indicates that breeders are becoming better acquainted with the purpose of the law and that pure-bred stallions are taking their rightful place as the sires of Oregon's horses.

In Washington the number of pure-bred stallions licensed in 1914 increased 154, or 36 per cent, over the number in 1912, while the grades increased 227, or about 74 per cent. This seems to indicate that when the law became effective not all owners of grade stallions applied for licenses, and the further probability that leniency was shown in enforcing the law the first year.

However, the general increase in pure-breds and decrease in grades and mongrels is an indication that there is a gradual but continued improvement in the quality of stallions being used in these States. It indicates also that breeders are becoming more particular and better informed in the matters of soundness, breeding, and registration, and that owners of stallions who at first were, in some instances, inclined to

oppose, are now aiding in the enforcement of the provisions of the laws.

It would be interesting to know just what is becoming of the unsound, grade, and mongrel stallions. It is indicated in the reports from the various States that as the patronage of these inferior sires decreases they are either castrated or shipped out, in most cases undoubtedly into States which have no law compelling them to stand under their true condition as to soundness and breeding, and where it is possible for them to continue their destructive influence upon the horse industry.

It is in these States that breeders should exercise the greatest caution before deciding to which stallion they will breed their mares. They should demand of the stallion owner that they be permitted to examine the certificate of registration and pedigree in order to learn whether the animal is properly registered in a reliable studbook, also whether the age, color, and description agree with the stallion whose service is being considered and whether the certificate has been altered or tampered with in any way. If the certificate has been changed or does not agree with the stallion, it is evident that something is wrong, and it will be much wiser to refuse the service of the stallion than to accept it, pay the fee, and run the risk of getting a nondescript foal, expensive to raise and for which there will be a poor market. It is imperative, therefore, that the breeders in these States should be protected. With no legislation governing the sale or public service of stallions, such States undoubtedly will receive unsound, grade, and nondescript horseflesh driven out of States that have properly and wisely safeguarded the interests of their horse breeders and farmers by enacting stallion legislation.

If a breeder is not familiar with pedigrees and registration societies, he should consult the State stallion registration board or his State agricultural college, giving all facts regarding the stallion whose service is being considered. In this way much information may be secured that will be of value in the future when the question of breeding comes up.

For the convenience and information of those interested, a list of the various State stallion registration boards or commissions follows, with the names and addresses of the

officials in charge, to whom all inquiries regarding the various State laws should be addressed:

- California, Charles W. Paine, secretary, Stallion Registration Board, Sacramento.
- Colorado, E. McCrillis, secretary, State Board of Stock Inspection Commissioners, Denver.
- Idaho, H. G. Bodle, State veterinarian, Live Stock Sanitary Board, Boise.
- Illinois, B. M. Davison, secretary, Stallion Registration Board, Springfield.
- Indiana, H. E. McCartney, secretary, Stallion Enrollment Board, La Fayette.
- Iowa, A. R. Corey, secretary, Stallion Registration Division, Department of Agriculture, Des Moines.
- Kansas, C. W. McCampbell, secretary, State Live Stock Registry Board, Manhattan.
- Michigan, Judson Black, secretary, State Veterinary Board, Richmond.
- Minnesota, J. S. Montgomery, assistant secretary, Stallion Registration Board, University Farm, St. Paul.
- Montana, C. N. Arnett, secretary, Stallion Registration Board, Bozeman.
- Nebraska, J. S. Anderson, secretary, Live Stock Sanitary Board, Lincoln.
- New Jersey, F. C. Minkler, secretary, Live Stock Commission, New Brunswick.
- New York, commissioner of agriculture, Albany.
- North Dakota, E. J. Thompson, secretary, Stallion Registration Board, Agricultural College.
- Oklahoma, W. L. Fowler, secretary, Oklahoma Live Stock Registry Board, Stillwater.
- Oregon, Carl N. Kennedy, secretary, Stallion Registration Board, Corvallis.
- Pennsylvania, Live Stock Sanitary Board, Harrisburg.
- South Dakota, A. E. Beaumont, secretary, Live Stock Sanitary Board, Pierre.
- Utah, W. E. Carroll, secretary, State Board of Horse Commissioners, Logan.
- Washington, H. T. Graves, acting commissioner of agriculture, Olympia.
- Wisconsin, A. S. Alexander, Department of Horse Breeding, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

A national association has been formed which is composed of representatives of the foregoing boards. The name of this organization is the National Association of Stallion Registration Boards, of which Prof. J. S. Montgomery is the secretary, with office at University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

